

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20054

In the Matter of )  
 ) RM-8499  
Amendment of the Commission's Rules )  
to Establish a New Radio Service )

**RECEIVED****AUG 25 1994**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT****MOTOROLA, INC.**

Motorola, Inc. ("Motorola") hereby submits its comments in support of the Petition for Rule Making ("Petition") filed by Radio Shack Division of Tandy Corporation ("Tandy").<sup>1</sup> In its Petition, Tandy seeks the creation of a new unlicensed personal radio service to be regulated under Part 95 of the FCC's Rules. As further explained in these comments, Motorola supports the creation of a new radio service designed to provide consumers with low cost, high quality two-way radio communications and therefore urges the Commission to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making consistent with the proposals discussed in the Tandy Petition.

**I. BACKGROUND/STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

Motorola is the world's leading manufacturer of two-way radio communications equipment. Its expertise includes high performance cellular radio equipment and advanced digital technology for Specialized Mobile Radio ("SMR") systems and other private radio users. Motorola also offers a variety of products to serve the

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<sup>1</sup> Public Notice, Report No. 2023, released July 26, 1994.

communications needs of individuals authorized in the General Mobile Radio Service ("GMRS"). Motorola estimates that this latter market segment accounted for nearly 10 million dollars in domestic equipment sales in 1993. Thus, Motorola's experience in offering product to a wide variety of market segments leaves it uniquely qualified to comment upon the need for a new consumer radio service.

The Tandy Petition requests that the FCC commence a rule making proceeding to establish a new unlicensed radio service that it designates the Family Radio Service.<sup>2</sup> As proposed by Tandy, the Family Radio Service would be a two-way, short range voice service, free of access charges or service fees, that would satisfy the routine and emergency communications needs of families, friends and public service organizations.<sup>3</sup> For example, Tandy suggests that neighborhood watch groups that are not eligible for GMRS system licenses or parents monitoring their children's activities would be likely candidates to use the Family Radio Service.<sup>4</sup> Tandy would prohibit interconnection with the public switched telephone network and require low-power (500 milliwatts or one-half watt) transceivers.<sup>5</sup> Most importantly, the Tandy Petition argues that the Family Radio Service should be treated as an unlicensed service in order to ease regulatory burdens on potential users and the FCC staff.

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<sup>2</sup> Tandy Petition at i.

<sup>3</sup> Id. at 2.

<sup>4</sup> Id. at 3.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

According to Tandy, spectrum for the proposed Family Radio Service would come from the 462/467 MHz bands "interstitial" channels that are immediately adjacent to the regularly assigned GMRS frequencies. More specifically, Tandy would provide to the Family Radio Service the seven interstitial channels in the 462 MHz band (which are currently available to the GMRS for simplex use) as well as the seven interstitial channels in the 467 MHz band (which are currently held in reserve to the GMRS).<sup>6</sup> The Tandy proposal would have the Family Radio Service "share those channels on a secondary basis" with the GMRS.<sup>7</sup> Finally, Tandy requests that the Family Radio Service have access to the 462/467.675 MHz emergency channel pair and asks that the Commission consider how Family Radio Service users could gain access to GMRS repeaters operating on those frequencies.

## **II. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Motorola endorses the Tandy Petition and strongly urges the FCC to expeditiously issue a notice of proposed rule making seeking to create an unlicensed consumer radio service utilizing the GMRS offset channels. A strong market exists in this country for a low-cost yet sophisticated two-way radio service that provides greater service reliability than citizens band ("CB") radio without the regulatory oversight that accompanies the GMRS service. The appropriate compromise is a low-power

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<sup>6</sup> Id. at 7-8. The specific channeling proposals are 462/467.5625 MHz, 462/467.5875 MHz, 462/467.6125 MHz, 462/467.6375 MHz, 462/467.6625 MHz, 462/467.6875 MHz and 462/467.7125 MHz.

<sup>7</sup> Id.

unlicensed service that provides consumers with effective and private communications at a relatively low cost without harmful impact to existing services.

Motorola concurs with Tandy's envisioned uses for this service. Clearly, the service would see its greatest benefits in helping today's parents keep track of their children and in aiding grass-roots public safety organizations such as neighborhood watch groups more effectively monitor their patrols. Today, these users are not well accommodated by existing FCC radio services. For example, citizens band radio is available but characterized by high interference levels and does not provide for selective (i.e., private) conversations. Also, the monthly costs associated with carrier-based communications services such as cellular radio, enhanced SMR service and paging may deter some families and non-profit organizations from utilizing these technologies for day-to-day personal communications. Finally, the private land mobile services contain prohibitive eligibility restrictions and regulatory requirements that would intimidate the more casual radio users. Thus, a new two-way radio service is needed to accommodate the needs of families and other entities.

In addition to the above mentioned applications, Motorola believes that this service would prove most useful to outdoor enthusiasts as well. For example, hikers, bikers and snowmobilers will be able to quickly contact lost companions and guide them onto the proper course. Hunters and fishermen would be able to monitor the location of their companions and better coordinate rendezvous points. During camping trips, parents would be able to allow their children to wander without fear of losing

contact. Indeed, the service would provide a greater measure of safety to all outdoor hobbyists.

To be truly successful, however, it is imperative that the service be offered on an unlicensed basis. The FCC's licensing process can be intimidating to consumers unfamiliar with typical FCC practices and could deter many from availing themselves to the service. Further, given the itinerant nature of the proposed service, the FCC's licensing process would provide little, if any, benefits in coordinating the location of users to minimize interference. Finally, the FCC's applications and regulatory fees would account for far too great a percentage of what should be a relatively low cost product.<sup>8</sup> Thus, requiring licensing in this proposed radio service would likely stifle its success.

Motorola understands that the Communications Act requires the issuance of licenses for all radio services other than the Citizens Band and Radio Control Radio services under Part 95.<sup>9</sup> However, Motorola also notes the similarity between the proposed service described herein and CB and that the Communications Act provides the FCC discretion in defining "citizens band radio service".<sup>10</sup> Thus, if the public

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<sup>8</sup> Motorola envisions selling "shrink-wrapped" radios in consumer electronic stores for between \$100 and \$250 dollars per radio. Under existing rules, the application fees for a new GMRS license is \$80 dollars. Thus, FCC regulatory fees would add a significant cost to consumers.

<sup>9</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 307(e)(1) (1993).

<sup>10</sup> 47 U.S.C. §307(e)(3) (1993).

interest is served, the FCC could determine that Tandy's proposed service falls under that definition and subject to the "de-licensing" provisions of the Act.<sup>11</sup>

As for technical standards, Motorola supports the use of the GMRS offset channels. Although specific technical standards are better addressed in the rule making proceeding, Motorola believes that such standards should strive to enhance the sharing capabilities of these devices with co-channel operations and adjacent channel GMRS stations. Thus, as a starting point, Motorola would support limiting transmitter output power to 500 milliwatts.<sup>12</sup> Motorola believes that such power levels should adequately protect GMRS stations operating on 12.5 kHz adjacent channels from harmful interference. Motorola would also support investigating whether limiting the authorized bandwidths of offset channel operations would afford any additional needed protection. Finally, Motorola believes that the FCC should carefully evaluate Tandy's proposal to render Family Radio Service users secondary to co-channel GMRS operations on the offset channels. Motorola questions the necessity of such a policy and would instead argue that these very similar types of low power operations should instead enjoy co-primary status.

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<sup>11</sup> Motorola also notes that pending legislation before House would provide the FCC with authority to "authorize the operation of radio stations without individual licenses" in all personal radio services. See HR 4522 (FCC Reauthorization). If adopted, this language would provide the FCC with clear authority to create new unlicensed personal radio services.

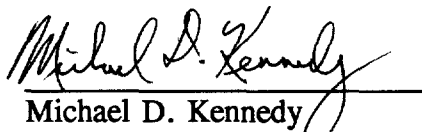
<sup>12</sup> Motorola expects that other manufacturers or parties may support even higher powers. Motorola urges the FCC to carefully consider these proposals and ensure that those parties are not advocating uses better accommodated on the higher powered GMRS channels. Motorola believes that low power operations are necessary on the offset channels to minimize co-channel interference in what should become a high density user environment.

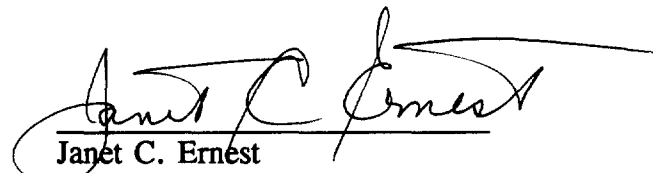
### III. CONCLUSION

Motorola supports the petition for rule making filed by Tandy and urges the FCC to commence a rule making proceeding seeking to establish a new, non-interconnected radio service for individuals and other consumers. The capabilities of such a service will enhance the ability of families to better monitor the activities of their children and will increase the safety and enjoyment level of outdoor recreational activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

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August 25, 1994

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 25th day of August, 1994, I caused copies of the foregoing "Statement of Support Motorola Inc" to be mailed via first-class postage prepaid mail to the following:

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